(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Per capita income
1992-93	0.33
1993-94	0.36
1994-95	0.43

(c) It has been reported by Super Bazar that during the current year (1995-96) the per capita income is estimated to be around Rs. 0.53 lakh.

Frauds and Scams in State Trading Corporation

1113. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that investigations into the frauds and scams reported in State Trading Corporation have been investigated by CBI against IAS and non-IAS officers;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) if not, by what time these are likely to be concluded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) In some cases the investigation has been completed by CBI and are at the stage of trial in different Courts. Some cases have been closed by CBI after investigation. In a few cases, CBI is conducting its investigations.

Harassment of Scientists in Rubber Board

1114. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the administration of Rubber Board has been putting all sorts of impediments in the work of a scientist who has developed a brand new tapping method capable of revolutionising the field of rubber production at no additional cost to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Smt. L. Thanakamma of RRII had filed an appeal before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala alleging interference in her work which has not been upheld by the Hon'ble High Court. Smt. Thanakamma had carried out some tapping experiments which were recently evaluated by the Scientific Advisory Committee of RRII and the results were found to be inadequate for eaching any conclusion.

Increasing Operational Cost of FCI

1115. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pelased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the operating cost of FCI is on the high side and as a result a large part of food subsidy does not go either to the producers or to the consumers but towards the management of FCI; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken during the last two years to minimise the said expenditure on management and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) FCI procures foodgrains mostly under price support operations whereby the producers stand to gain by payment of assured minimum prices. The economic cost of wheat and rice during 1995-96(RE) is as under:—

Fig. Rs./Qtl.

Element of cost	Wheat	Rice
Pooled cost of grains	351.10	584.60
Procurement incidentals (including mandi charges Arthias Commission cost of gunnies, handling transport at mandi)	84.75	52.98

Element of cost	Wheat	Rice
Carry over chages paid to other agencies involved in procurement	24.53	—
Distribution cost	103.19	109.14
Economic cost	563.57	746.72

Issue prices under PDS w.e.f. 1.2.94 is Rs.402 per qtl. for wheat, Rs.537/- per qtl. of common rice, Rs.617/- per qtl. of fine rice and Rs.648/- per qtl. of superfine rice. It may be observed that the issue price does not cover the entire amount of the cost of grain plus expenses incurred by the Corporation in procuring the same. The Government has therefore to reimburse the entire distribution cost, buffer carrying cost of grains and differential in the procurement incidentals not realised through the issue prices to the FCI. For RPDS areas, the issue prices are further reduced by Rs.50/- per qtl. than the PDS prices.

3. It would thus be seen that the consumers benefit on account of issue prices fixed by the Government.

4. although the expenses of FCI are not on the high sign still the steps taken by the Corporation to reduce expenditure on subsidy in the overall interest of efficiency & economy are as under:—

(i) The Corporation has set the target of achieving average capacity utilisation of 75% even though the procurement of grain is seasonal.

(ii) The procurement and movement ratio is being adhered to the norm of 1:1.35 as fixed by Govenment of India to reduce the expenditure in freight.

(iii) Results entry level posts are not filled up except in exceptional circumstances, to reduce the administrative cost and increasse producitivity.

(iv) Continuous efforts are being taken to reduce shortages in handling of foodgrains.

(v) Release of stocks in the open market at prices above the C.I.P.

Refixation of Levy Sugar Price

1116. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims received by Government on account of refixation on the ex-factory price of levy sugar for 1974-75 to 1979-80;

(b) the names of factories whose claims on account of refixation on ex-factory price of levy sugar for 1974-75 to 1979-80 seasons have been finalised and payment made; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite payments against these claims?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) 176 claims have been received by Government on account of re-fixation of the ex-factory prices of levy sugar for 1974-75 (w.e.f.) 12.7.75) to 1979-80 sugar seasons.

(b) Authorisation for payments have been issued by the Ministry of Food to the Food Corproation of India in the case of 19 sugar factories. Payments have been made by FCI to 16 sugar factories. A list of these factories is given in the Statement. (*See below*). Payments in respect of the remaining 3 mills are expected to be made by Food Corporation of India shortly.

(c) In the months of March and April, 1995, in a series of meetings with Indian sugar Mills Association and National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories, the claim forms were finalised, considering the factual information possibly available with sugar factories to